



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Park Authority Presents 2006 Stewardship Awards

The Fairfax County Park Authority recently presented the 2006 Stewardship Awards which recognize individuals and teams for their exceptional efforts to protect or interpret Fairfax County's natural and cultural resources. Since this awards program was established ten years ago, several dozen talented and dedicated individuals and teams have been honored.

During the awards reception held at Frying Pan Farm Park's visitor center, the following recipients were acknowledged:

Marty Smith, Riverbend Park manager and a resident of Springfield, as well as **Karen Sheffield**, of Vienna and a senior interpretor at Riverbend Park were honored for their excellence in interpretation. Working together Smith and Sheffield developed and completed the Potomac River Gorge Interpretive Trail waysides, a series of exhibits along the Potomac River funded by the Chesapeake Bay Gateway network and developed in collaboration with Great Falls National Park. The seven waysides are thought-provoking and feature photos, paintings and text.

Reston resident **Meghan Fellows** serves as naturalist with the Natural Resource Management and Protection section and was recognized for her commitment to the stewardship efforts of Fairfax County's natural resources. Leading the way, Fellows developed a series of eye-catching stewardship brochures which help citizens understand the impact of invasive plants, learn ways to improve the health of their backyards and appreciate the diversity and importance of native plants and animals. Under leadership, and project coordination more than a mile of stream buffer was restored last year. These newly replenished stream banks improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat.

The Fairfax County Park Authority's **Folkstone Bridge Team** which includes **Danny Stuart**, of Warrenton, Area 6 labor crew chief, **Kevin Spriggs**, of Leesburg, Area 5 motor equipment operator, **Devon Treasure**, of Clifton, MD, Area 6 park specialist I and **Alan Crofford**, of Warrenton, Area 6 manager were honored for their exceptional efforts to protect natural resources in a local park. The team found a creative and "resource sensitive solution" to replace the Folkstone Bridge in Difficult Run Stream Valley. They developed a new trail and re-planted of the old trail to increase vegetation and slow water runoff.

For more information or photos of recipients, please contact Judy Pedersen the Public Information Officer at 703-324-8662.

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